Annual Report for 1893

Gentlemen,

Population 44952.

The estimated population of your district, in the year 1893, calculated on that of the Census of 1891, was 44952.

Part I. A tabular statement of sickness and mortality, within your district, tabulated according to diseases, ages, and localities.

Sickness.

The general, ordinary, sickness which, excluding epidemics of influenza, had been remarkably light for several years, began to increase in January, and, diminishing in the second quarter, became comparatively heavy in the third, and very much so in the fourth, the diseases most prevalent having been rheumatism, and catarrhs, and the cases, with few exceptions, not serious.

Influenza

Influenza, which was very prevalent in the early part of the year, especially amongst children many of whom had troublesome lung complications, and which appeared to have practically left your district by the middle of the year, only isolated cases cropping up here & there, again became epidemic in September, and raged severely until the end of December, when it began to subside. There were 1386 cases during the year, and 8 deaths, 3 direct, and 5 indirect, the former in persons damaged by chronic alcoholism, Epilepsy, &c, 2 of the latter women after confinement when the disease appears to be specially serious and fatal, and the others 3 from pleuritis and pneumonia contracted afterwards.

The following table shows the prevalence of the disease in each month of the year.

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Month	cases	deaths	Remarks.
January	177	1	Cold and rough.
February	181	0	Depressing
March	193	1	— wet.
April	83	1	Finer.
May	42	0	Finer and colder
June	23	0	Warm
July	28	0	Warm, wet, close.
August	28	0	
September	100	1	Cold, and rough.
October	116	1	east winds
November	267	0	Cold & wet; rough.
December	148	3	Wet and rough.
Totals	1386.	8.	

I should mention, here, that these figures do not represent all the cases that occurred during the year, as many were attended by other Med=ical men, & did not come under my notice.

Birth-rate. 36.24

The number of ~~deaths~~ births registered during the year was 281 (138 males & 143 females) which gives a birth-rate, ~~of~~ on the estimated popu=lation, of 36.24 per 1000 per annum, this being about, or rather above, the average, and almost the same as that for 1892.

Vaccinations

The number of Vaccinations under 1 year of age was 202, leaving 79, or more, to be accounted for by death, &c, a considerable pro=portion having been postponed on account of the children not being fit to undergo the operation.

Deaths. Rate 22.57.

The total number of deaths was 175 (88 males & 87 females) representing a general death-rate of 22.57 per 1000 per annum, which is a good deal higher than I expected, owing to the excessive number of deaths (most of them preventable) from Zymotic, consti=

Deaths.

=tutional, and nervous diseases, and diseases of the digestive organs, and those peculiar to women, in the fourth quarter.

Rates under 1 & 5.

The rates under 1, & under 5, years of age were 7.09 (or 195.72 per 1000 births) and 9.67, respectively, these being excessively high as com=pared with those of rural, & non-manufacturing districts, but not above the average in those — in fact below many — similarly circumstanced, thus showing the baneful effects on infant & child life of the conditions-(careless and im=proper feeding; & unhealthy dwellings, all more or less damp & draughty, and built on undrained, refuse sodden ground, & many badly ventilated & overcrowded —) under which they live.

Zymotic rate.

The Zymotic death-rate was 2.57, which, al=though below that of the preceding year, is still higher than it should be.

Phthisis

The rate from Phthisis - one test of the general san=itary condition of a place - was 1.92, which is about, or below, the average in urban districts. Of the above total deaths 16 were due to Zymotic diseases - scarlet fever 1, Typhoid 1, measles 2, puerperal fever 4, Whooping-cough 4, and diarrhoea 3 - as against 27 the preceding year. 22 to constitutional diseases - phthisis, Syphilis, cancer, & rheumatism - against 15; 32 to dis=eases of the nervous system - 2 alcoholism - against 21; 6 to diseases of the heart; 43 to in=flammatory diseases of the lungs and air passages against 31; 16 to diseases of the di=gestive organs, 11 of these children under 1 year of age; 1 to disease of the urinary or=gans; 4 to diseases peculiar to women; and

Deaths. the rest to old age, debility (12 children under 1 year of age) and accident – 5. There were only 3 deaths between the ages of 5 & 15, while there were 55 under 1 year, & 20 between that & 5, which figures speak for themselves.

Table of prevailing weather, sickness, &c, in each month of the year.

Month	Weather	Prevailing Sickness	No. Zymotic disease cases	deaths
January	(Frost. Snow	Quinsy. Influenza	22. 177.	
	(Thaw. Gale	Scarlat: croup. Carbuncle.	16. 1. 1.	
February	(Rain. Mild	Quinsy. Varicella. Influenza.	25. 1. 181.	
	(Wet. Rough	Scarlat: Typhoid. Diphtheria	4. 1. 1.	0. 1. 0.
March	(Wet. dull	Quinsy. Varicella. Influenza.	24. 9. 193	0. 0. 1.
	(Fine. Mild	Scarlat: Erysipelas. Puerperal Septicaemia	1. 2. 1.	0. 0. 1.
April	(Fine. Colder	Quinsy. Varicella. Influenza.	7. 56. 83	0. 0. 1.
	(Rain. Warm	Puerperal Septicaemia	1.	1.
May	(Cold. Fine	Quinsy. Varicella. Influenza.	8. 55. 42	
	(Thunder. Warmer	Scarlat: Measles. Puerp[l] = Septicaemia.	2. 1. 1.	
June	(Heavy. Warm	Quinsy. Varicella. Influenza.	18. 3. 23.	
	(Fine. hot	Scarlat: Diar:	1. 26.	
July	(Warm. rough	Quinsy. Varicella. Ac: Rh: Influenza.	15. 1. 2. 28	
	(Wet. Close	Scarlat: Diar: Pyaemia	2. 86. 1.	0. 0. 1.
August	(Wet. Close	Quinsy. Varicella. Ac: Rh: Influenza.	25. 6. 1. 28.	
	(Fine. hot	Scarlat: Rotheln: Diar:	2. 1. 97.	
September	(Close. Thunder	Quinsy. Varicella. Mumps. Influenza	18. 7. 1. 100	0. 0. 0. 1.
	(Cold. Fine	Scarlat: Diph: Typhoid. Diar:	3. 1. 1. 97.	
October	(Fine. Shower	Quinsy. Varicella. Ac: Rh: Influenza	34. 20. 1. 116	
	(dull. rough.	Scarlat: Diph: Pertussis. Diar:	5. 4. 1. 36	
November	(Frost. rough	Quinsy. Varicella. Influenza	16. 6. 267	
	(Hurricane. Wet	Scarlat: Diph: Typ[d] = Measles. Puerperal. Pertussis	6. 1. 1. 18. 56.	1.
December	(Wet. rough	Quinsy. Influenza	11. 148.	0. 3
	(Wet. rough. Frost	Scarlat: Measles. Puerperal Pertussis	1. 79. 1. 110.	0. 2. 1. 9

Part II. A summary of action for preventing the spread of disease.

Typhoid Typhoid fever. 3 cases & 1 death – 1 (fatal) in February, at 12, White Row, the cause of which

Typhoid. was not clear, the most probable being the opening (end) of a culvert, or sewer, near the house in which it occurred; 1, in September, at 33, Plantation St: caused by a drain at the back of the next house, which was attended to; & 1, in November, at 24, Jen= =kins Row, due to a very foul drain at back, which had been complained of for sometime, & was, at last, put right.

Table of Typhoid fever cases.

Date	Locality	age	Result	Cause	Action taken
Feb: 3	12. White Row	22	Died	Culvert opening near house	None
Sep: 25	33. Plantation St:	13	Recovered	Drain next door	Put right
Nov: 3	24. Jenkins Row	36	Recovered	Foul drain back	Put right

Diphtheria. Diphtheria. 7 cases, & no death, 1, at 15 Rowles Sq: 1, at 16 Red House Row, both damp, badly venti= =lated houses; 1, at 4. Manest St: probably due to cleaning out foul drain near back; 1, at 8 Treforis Row, house on refuse sodden ground; 1 at back Goshen St: due to untrapped drain; 1, at 4. Beulah Row, probably caused by drain running under house; & 1 at Castle Terrace, cause uncertain, but back premises of next door in faulty sanitary condition.

Table of Diphtheria Cases.

Date	Locality	cases under 5	cases over 5	Cause.	Action taken
Feb: 15	16 Rowles Sq:	0	1	Damp, badly ventilated	None.
Sep: 24	16. Red House Row	0	1	Badly Ventilated	None
Oct: 1	4. Manest St:	1	0	Cleaning out drain.	None.
— 4	1. Bk: Goshen St:	0	1	Untrapped drain	Trapped
— 7	8. Treforis Row	0	1	Refuse sodden ground	None
— 29	4. Beulah Row	0	1	Drain under house	Put right
Nov: 3	Merlin Villa	0	1	Drain	None
	Totals	1.	6	No death	

Croup. Croup – 1 case, in Pond Row, in January.

Scarlet fever. 43 cases, & 1 death. In the month

Scarlet fever.

of January this disease was prevalent in the middle & lower parts of your district, having been, as usual, carried about from one house to another. There were a few cases in February & 1 at the beginning of March, from which time to May it disappeared. In May there were 2 cases, 1 in Upper, & 1 in Lower, part of district, the origin of which was unas= =certainable. In June there was 1 case in Forge St: probably caught at Mr Phil, followed by another, end of this month, at Sq, Hill St: the origin of which could not be found out. In August 2 cases cropped up at Hechwyd both imported from Dowlais, & in September 3 occ= =curred at 45 Forge St: the first of which was not recognised until too late to prevent its spread, the result being that, between this & the end of the year, 14 cases including 2 in same house) directly due to it, were attended to in Forge St: & Wellington St:. The isolation Hos= =pital, although ready, was not used, because no arrangement had been made for the main= =tenance of the patients, and the first cases would not have been allowed by their parents to go to.

Table of Scarlet fever cases

Date	District	Cases under 5	Cases over 5	Deaths under 5	Deaths over 5	Origin	Remarks
January	Upper	1	4			Previous case	
	Lower	7	4			Visiting infected houses.	
February	Upper	0	0			—	
	Lower	3	1				
March	Upper	0	0				
	Lower	1	0				
April	Upper	0	0				
	Lower	0	0				
May	Upper	0	1			Unascertainable	
	Lower	1	0				

June	Upper	0	0			
	Lower	1	0			One Typhil other unknown
July	Upper	0	0			
	Lower	2	0			
August	Upper	1	1			Dowlais
	Lower	0	0			
September	Upper	0	0			
	Lower	1	2			
October	Upper	0	0			
	Lower	2	3			46. Forge St.
November	Upper	1	0			
	Lower	2	3	1		Forge St.
December	Upper	0	0			
	Lower	1	0			Case same Street
Totals		24	19	1	0	

Measles.

Measles - 97 cases and 2 deaths. The first case was brought, from Ebbw Vale, to 4, Morgan Row, the beginning of November, was carried from here to the Lower infant Schools, & spread rapidly through the children attending them. I therefore, & because Whooping-cough was very prevalent in the same District, recommended, at your December meeting, the closing of those schools for a month at least, with the effect that, by the end of that time, the epidemic was completely stopped, only a few isolated cases having occurred since. There was 1 case, in May, in Dan Terrace, imported from Pontlottyn, that did not spread further.

Table of Measles Cases

Month.	District	cases under 5	cases over 5	deaths under 5	deaths over 5	Origin	Weather
May	Upper	1	0			Pontlottyn	Cold. Fine
	Lower	0	0				
November	Upper	0	0				
	Lower	14	4			Ebbw Vale	Frost. Rough. Wet.
December	Upper	1	1				
	Lower	64	12	2	0	Schools.	Wet. Rough. Frost, end
Totals		80	17	2	0		

Rotheln Rotheln - 1 doubtful case, in Carno St: in August.

Erysipelas - Erysipelas - 2 cases, both facial.

Puerperal Puerperal Septicaemia - 4 cases, 1 Pyaemia from pelvic abscess, 1 due probably to insanitary condition of house, & the other 2 to carelessness of Mid-wives; also 1 case of puerperal eclamp=sia (convulsions).

Carbuncle Carbuncle - 1 case in January.

Whooping-cough - 167, or more, cases, and 9 deaths, nearly all the direct consequence of children suffering from the disease having been allowed - in some cases forced, according to the parents - to attend school. I found that one child had been doing so for a fortnight.

Whooping cough. The first case came under my notice, in Plantation St: the beginning of November, after which it be=came more prevalent, and rapidly spread through that district, by means of the lower un=faut schools, which, with a view to check the spread of measles as well, were closed, as mentioned further back, with a most satisfactory result. To prevent its spread in the beginning information of the first case was at once given to the school authorities, with a request that no child from that house should be allowed to at=tend school, and the same thing was done in connection with the second & third, but with no effect. The mortality from the disease, which was heavy, is, I may point out, un=doubtedly increased, especially in winter, by the practice of keeping the children near a large fire, in warm air, during the day, and, at night taking them upstairs into a cold & generally damp room.

Diarrhoea. About 360 cases, with a sprinkling

Diarrhoea — of English Cholera, between the end of June and the end of October, most of them in August and September, and due, chiefly, to eating too much fruit, some of it unsound.

Diarrhoea.

Quinsy — Quinsy — 223 cases in course of year, the worst in damp, badly ventilated, and otherwise in=sanitary, houses.

Ac: Rh:m — Acute Rheumatism — 4 cases, all in more or less damp dwellings.

Chicken pox — Chicken pox, which was unusually prevalent in April and the first half of May, 164 cases — probably more.

Mumps — Mumps — 1 case, end of September.

Ringworm — In the early part of the year several cases of ring-worm came under my notice, & finding that they all belonged to the same school, I recommended that the Clerk to the School Board be written to and asked to instruct the teachers to rigidly exclude all such children. This was carried out, with the effect of stopping any further spread of the disease.

Part III — Part III. General sanitary condition of, and improvements carried out in, District during year, together with an account of enquiries made as to conditions injurious to health existing in District, and of the proceedings relating to such conditions in which our Medical Officer has taken part, or advised.

General Sanitary Condition — The general Sanitary condition of the District is, under the circumstances peculiar to it, very fairly satisfactory, and has been considerably improved in the course of the year, as the following list of the principal works that have been carried out will show.

In (and foremost) a new main drain, nearly

400 yards long, the house drains and closets
Improvements connected therewith, to remedy the serious nuis=
=sance caused by closets, drains & pigsties (the
last removed altogether) emptying into a water
=course, which existed at the back of 100 to 112 Hills
2 - new pipe drains laid in Hill St: (several houses)
Plantation St:, Yard Row, Jenkins Row, High St: Tunnel
Row, Tre Evans, Clarence Row, Upper High St: Carnsliff,
& Red House, Rows, old Carn o Houses, & Hospital Houses.
3 - 5 new closets in Hill St: & Upper X Row, and Seve=
=ral improved & connected with main drain.
4 - New pavements laid in Havards Row, Field St:,
and Plantation St:.
5 - 10 additional Street gas Lamps erected in
different parts of your district.
6 - 1 new ash-bin provided.
7 - an Infectious diseases Hospital, in an isolated
convenient position, fitted up for 4 beds, in
charge of a suitable caretaker, & ready for use
at any time.
8 - 253 notices to remove nuisances were
served during the year, & all attended to.
All houses in which cases of infectious disease,
Visits to infected houses. especially typhoid fever, diphtheria, & Scarlet fever,
have occurred, have been visited by your Inspector,
or me - generally both - & any sanitary defects
attended to as soon, & as far, as practicable; and all
- or nearly all - Scarlet fever houses have been
disinfected. In connection with this I may
mention that an old machine house, near
Disinfecting building. the Infectious Hospital will be fitted up with a
boiler &c, for disinfecting clothing by steam -
that is, if you carry out the decision you
came to sometime ago, which I hope you will
as, at present, there is nothing of the kind in

your district, and, in that respect, you are wanting in one important provision for prevent=ing the spread of infectious disease.

Scavenging. The scavenging has been done very much better, and more satisfactorily in every way, than for several years past, or, indeed at all, and there is nothing to complain of in that direction.

Water Supply. The water supply in the Rhymney part of your district has been, with the exception of a short time in the driest part of the year, when it was turned off for a few hours every day, abundant, and of good quality, the only thing, peculiar to it being that it requires efficient filtration, & that for this, the filter beds require to be cleaned fre=quently, otherwise they don't act, & the water becomes brown & dirty. I am sorry to say that the inhabitants of the upper part of Princetown in the Llanguinder portion of your district, are still without any proper & convenient supply, the women having to fetch it for drinking pur=poses from a well a considerable distance off. In September, some of you visited this well, with a view to considering the question of bring=ing the water down to a conveniently situated stand pipe, but, as the people living in that por=tion of your district (through being rated, at their own request, separately) would have had to pay the whole of the cost, and some of them who would not have been directly benefited by it, objected to pay their share, the matter dropped the result being, as stated above, that the people are without any proper supply of drinking water, a very serious state of things, as I need hardly point out.

Drainage. The drainage of your district, as will be seen

further back, has been generally improved, & the closet accommodation is fairly satisfactory although some of them are not kept as clean as they ~~ought to~~ should be, & a few others are out of repair.

Drainage.

Disposal of sewage.

All the sewage, however, is discharged into the river, which is in contravention of the Rivers Pollution Prevention act, & will necessitate, in the near future, your taking into serious consideration the carrying out of some recognised system of sewage disposal for your district.

Bakehouses, Cowsheds, & slaughterhouses,

Bakehouses &c.

Your Inspector informs me that he has duly inspected the bakehouses, slaughterhouses, & cowsheds under your control, & that they are kept clean & otherwise in a satisfactory condition.

Schools.

The sanitary condition of the schools too, is fairly good, the only exception being the lower, the objectionable form of urinal at the bottom of the playground, there, to which attention has been drawn in my two last Annual reports, being, I believe, still in existence.

Special visits.

Very few special visits, in the strict meaning of the term, have been made by me during the year, for the reason that, as a rule, I have either noticed, or my attention has been drawn to nuisances, or other sanitary defects, in different parts of your district, when visiting in a medical capacity. When anything serious has come under my notice I have informed your Inspector of it at once, with the result that all matters of the kind have been attended to without loss of time. Amongst the more special visits were the following -

Feb: 4 - 11 Crown Shon Mathew Sqre - Broken drain

Trap; informed Inspector; repaired at once.
March 10-11 Llechryd - complained of by occu=
=pier - house wet, through broken roof; sent
notice to Inspector who attended to it.
April 19 - complained of by one of the occupiers -
water-course at back of 100 to 112. Hill St: a nui=
=sance; cleaned out, & subsequently, new
drain laid, as mentioned further back.
May 23-14, Forge St: drain leaking, and wall
damp; certificate to Inspector, who had it put right.
June 14. 25, Brynhyfryd Row, pine end wall
damp; certificate to Inspector, but nothing done.

Conclusion In conclusion, while congratulating you on the improvements that have been carried out, I must express a hope that you will, as soon as practicable, take into serious consideration the disposing of the sewage of your district, without, as at present, discharging it into the river in a crude state, this being the most important work left to be done to put the district into a fairly satisfactory condition. I would also, suggest that damp, badly ventilated houses, such as the back to back Cross Rows, & some of the houses in Rowles Sqr:, be not allowed to be occupied, especially by families of children, whilst there are health=ier & better houses empty, except under ex=ceptional circumstances.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant
T. Hall Redwood M. D.
Medical Officer of Health.

Rhymney March 7th = 1894.
A. & B, Forms appended.

12 MAR 24